

(\$371 of International Application Number PCT/JP03/12866)

Docket Number 040243

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 3-5 and 8 have been amended and Claims 9-20 have been added as follows:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original): A powder inhalator comprising:

a housing;

a supply member for holding a powdered drug for a large number of doses and having a drug discharge aperture at its bottom surface;

a drug carrier, to which the powdered drug is supplied from the drug discharge aperture of the supply member, and having on its upper surface a measuring recess that has a volume equivalent to one dose of the drug; and

an operation member disposed so as to move freely back and forth, and operate the drug carrier;

the drug carrier moving in contact with the bottom surface of the supply member to carry the powdered drug loaded into the measuring recess from the position of the drug discharge aperture to an air inhalation channel,

wherein the drug carrier is supported pivotably in the housing so that the measuring recess moves in a circular manner by pivoting the drug carrier.

Claim 2 (original): The powder inhalator according to claim 1, wherein the measuring recess is located at a position between the center of the pivotal movement of the drug carrier and the point at which the operation member engages the drug carrier.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The powder inhalator according to claim ~~[[1 or]]~~ 2, wherein the operation member is a pushbutton and the operation member is pressed to move the measuring recess into the air inhalation channel.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The powder inhalator according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 3, wherein conductivity is imparted to the supply member, the drug carrier and the operation member.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The powder inhalator according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 4, wherein the measuring recess is a spherical concave shape and provided with a bottom.

Claim 6 (original): A powder inhalator comprising:

- a housing having a mouthpiece in its front portion;
- a supply member containing powdered drug for a large number of doses;
- a drug carrier which moves back and forth between the supply member and the mouthpiece to convey a dose of the powdered drug from the supply member toward the mouthpiece;
- a protecting cap which detachably fits onto the housing from the front side of the housing;
- and
- an operation member which operates the drug carrier by moving back and forth, and which is shaped like a cap so as to cover the housing from the rear side of the housing;
- wherein an opening for operation is provided at the rear side of the housing;
- a connector is inserted into the opening to connect the operation member to the drug carrier;
- and the protecting cap joins at the rear end thereof with the front end of the operation member to envelope the housing when covering the housing with the protecting cap.

Claim 7 (original): The powder inhalator according to claim 6, wherein a baffle is provided so as to prevent air flowing into a gap formed between the housing and the operation member.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The powder inhalator according to claim [[6 or]] 7, wherein a seal member is attached to at least one of the front end of the operation member or the rear end of the protecting cap, and the protecting cap and the operation member are joined to each other via the seal member.

Claim 9 (new): The powder inhalator according to claim 6, wherein a seal member is attached to at least one of the front end of the operation member or the rear end of the protecting cap, and the protecting cap and the operation member are joined to each other via the seal member.

Claim 10 (new): The powder inhalator according to claim 2, wherein conductivity is imparted to the supply member, the drug carrier and the operation member.

Claim 11 (new): The powder inhalator according to claim 10, wherein the measuring recess is a spherical concave shape and provided with a bottom.

Claim 12 (new): The powder inhalator according to claim 2, wherein the measuring recess is a spherical concave shape and provided with a bottom.

Claim 13 (new): The powder inhalator according to claim 3, wherein the measuring recess is a spherical concave shape and provided with a bottom.

Claim 14 (new): The powder inhalator according to claim 1, wherein the operation member is a pushbutton and the operation member is pressed to move the measuring recess into the air inhalation channel.

Claim 15 (new): The powder inhalator according to claim 14, wherein conductivity is imparted to the supply member, the drug carrier and the operation member.

Claim 16 (new): The powder inhalator according to claim 15, wherein the measuring recess is a spherical concave shape and provided with a bottom.

Claim 17 (new): The powder inhalator according to claim 14, wherein the measuring recess is a spherical concave shape and provided with a bottom.

Claim 18 (new): The powder inhalator according to claim 1, wherein conductivity is imparted to the supply member, the drug carrier and the operation member.

Claim 19 (new): The powder inhalator according to claim 18, wherein the measuring recess is a spherical concave shape and provided with a bottom.

Claim 20 (new): The powder inhalator according to claim 1, wherein the measuring recess is a spherical concave shape and provided with a bottom.